

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Date: June 14, 2007

From: Michael D Oja
District Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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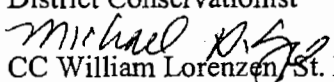
To: Stephen Thornhill
Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company
PO Box 419173
9400 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64141

Subject: STB Finance Docket NO. 34992-Itasca County Regional Rail Authority,
Proposed railroad line to Minnesota Steel, Itasca County, MN.

Dear Stephen,

The five alternative routes as identified on the aerial photographs as attachments A and B which supported the April 13, 2007 letter to the USDA/NRCS St. Paul, MN. will be the main subject of these comments. All routes are partially on soils identified as prime or prime if drained as delineated by the USDA Itasca County Soil Survey. These soils are protected by the Farmland Protection Policy Act. If Burns and McConnell Engineering Company require a full assessment of the route impact please fill out the enclosed AD-1006 form and return to me with any new route alignments.

Sincerely,

Michael D Oja
District Conservationist

CC William Lorenzen, St. Paul, MN.

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